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No. 165

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DOLD).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 20, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT J. DOLD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving and gracious God, we give You thanks for giving us another day. We ask today that You bless the Members of the people's House to be the best and most faithful servants of the people they serve.

On this day, Congress honors the life of Senator Daniel Inouye, who lies in state in the rotunda. He was the first to serve his State in this assembly. He served his country for decades as a true patriot, soldier, legislator, statesman, and gentleman—always thousands of miles from his own home.

Endow the Members of this assembly with a measure of the courage, integrity, and loyalty of such an exemplar of public service.

And may all that is done this day in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. JENKINS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. JENKINS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 20, 2012.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on December 20, 2012 at 10:02 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3477.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3870.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 3912.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5738.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5837.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 5954.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4057.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 6029.

That the Senate passed S. 3630.

That the Senate passed S. 3662.

That the Senate passed S. 2318.

That the Senate passed S. 3202.
That the Senate passed S. 3698.
Appointments:
United States-China Economic Security Review Commission.
With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

ESTATE TAX

(Ms. JENKINS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JENKINS. Growing up on a Kansas dairy farm, I know the estate tax is a threat to family farms. This tax makes bailing hay and shoveling manure sound like a get-rich-quick scheme, when most family farms make an average of \$45,000 a year. Raising the estate tax to 55 percent and dropping the exemption to \$1 million might be feasible for a hedge fund manager, but it will jeopardize the future of farmers and their families, forcing many to sell their farms they worked to build for generations.

Many farmers are "land rich" but "cash poor." The average land value for 65,000 Kansas farms is \$900,000. Throw in a \$300,000 combine, a \$250,000 tractor, and Kansas farmers are suddenly millionaires according to estate tax math. But this isn't wealth they can use to pay taxes. It's in assets.

Farmers provide us with a safe and dependable food supply. We cannot allow the estate tax to put them out of business.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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